

REMARKS

The applicant has amended the claims as set out above and provides remarks set out below to address each concern raised by the office in the official communication mailed September 4, 2003. Amendments to the claims have been made to comply with the examiner's comments on allowable subject matter. The amendments are consistent with the disclosure originally filed. The amendments have also been particularly presented to avoid, where applicable, any admission or estoppel, generally, negatively effecting the scope of protection provided by the disclosure and claims of the present application, and particularly to avoid prosecution history estoppel, limitation of the scope of equivalences, or the like. The applicant does not waive the right to have any unamended claims examined without any reduction in breadth in a subsequent continuing application, if desired.

Cancellation of claims

The applicant without prejudice cancels claims 2, 6-8, 17-22, 25, 26 and 29-33. The applicant does not waive any right to have these claims examined without any reduction in breadth in a subsequent continuing application, if desired.

Additional claims

The applicant has amended the specification to include newly added claims 34-69 without the addition of any new matter. The appropriate fee has also been included with this response for the number of additional claims that exceeded the number of claims previously paid for.

Amendments and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) concerns

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 7, 8, 27 and 28 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 1 to include the scope of claims 6-8. Further applicant has added independent claims 34 and 52 to include the scope of claims 27 and 28, respectively, and has added the appropriate dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the applicant believes that the Section 103 concerns are no longer applicable.

It is noted that the office has given certain reasons for allowance of the application. It is noted, however, that it is the claims as a whole and not just the summary provided by the examiner, which makes the claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

The applicant having addressed each of the office's concerns raised in the office action, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims. In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (970) 224-3100.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,
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